

**SUBJECT:** Restricting municipalities from repealing certain civil service systems

**COMMITTEE:** Urban Affairs — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Lozano, Gates, Bernal, Cortez, Cunningham, J. González, Hayes, Romero, Tepper

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For —Thomas Villarreal, Austin Police Association; Jennifer Szimanski, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Robin Krouse, Fort Worth Police Officers Association; Matt Mackowiak; Cleo Patrick (*Registered, but did not testify*: Christopher Irwin, Austin Police Association PAC; TJ Patterson, City of Fort Worth; Charley Wilkison, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; Chris Peterson, Dallas Firefighters Association; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; David Cook, Fort Worth Police Association; Larry Young, Game Warden Peace Officer's Association; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; Carlos Ortiz, San Antonio Police Officers' Association; Dallas Reed, Texas Municipal Police Association; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs' Regional Alliance)

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code sec. 143.004 allows a municipality to hold an election to adopt or repeal a civil service system for firefighters and police officers under certain conditions.

Some have suggested that the ability to hold such an election should be restricted to municipalities below a certain population threshold.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 4227 would amend Local Government Code sec. 143.004 to restrict municipalities from holding an election to repeal a civil service system for firefighters and police officers to those with a population of less than 900,000.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.